

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - PRESIDENT PARK NYT INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED AUGUST 21 ON
STATEMENTS REGARDING U.S. FORCES AND CONTACTS WITH NORTH
KOREA MADE BY PRESIDENT PARK IN NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW.

QUOTE:

QUESTION: CAN YOU COMMENT ON PRESIDENT PARK'S STATEMENT
THAT NO U.S. FORCES WILL BE NEEDED IN FIVE YEARS IN KOREA
TO DEFEND AGAINST A NORTH KOREAN ATTACK, UNSUPPORTED BY
THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC?

ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE NO PLANS TO CHANGE OUR PRESENT
FORCE LEVEL IN KOREA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE USG HAS
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SUPPORTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE

ROKG TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE.

QUESTION IS IT TRUE AS PRESIDENT PARK STATES THAT THE U.S.
WILL HAVE NO CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA WITHOUT CONSULTING
THE ROK?

ANSWER: IT IS OUR LONG STANDING POSITION THAT THE ISSUES

RELATING TO THE KOREAN PENINSULA CANNOT BE SETTLED
WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ROK. WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY
CONSULT WITH THE ROK ON MATTERS DIRECTLY INVOLVING IT.

QUESTION: PRESIDENT PARK REFERS TO COMPLETION OF THE
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. HOW FAR IS THAT FROM COMPLETION?

ANSWER: THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WHICH ENVISAGED THE
PROVISION OF \$1.5 BILLION WORTH OF NEW AND EXCESS MILI-
TARY EQUIPMENT IS MORE THAN 2/3 COMPLETED. COMPLETION
OF THE PROGRAM, OF COURSE, DEPENDS ON THE LEVEL OF THE
ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.

UNQUOTE.

2. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT AUGUST 21 NOON PRESS
BRIEFING ON THIS SUBJECT. KOREAN PRESS, HOWEVER, ARE
EXPECTED TO ENQUIRE SEPARATELY AND WILL BE GIVEN
ABOVE GUIDANCE.

MAW

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